# U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division



OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL FOR IMMIGRATION-RELATED UNFAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES

#### What Does OSC Do?

OSC investigates and prosecutes employment discrimination based on:

- National origin
- Citizenship or immigration status



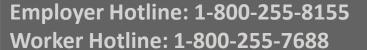
# Why is this Presentation Critical to You and OSC?

- OSC's jurisdiction is all 50 states
- OSC has critical information that can help you and the community you serve



 OSC relies on community partnerships to prevent and learn about unlawful discrimination

### How can we work together?





#### **Presentation Overview**

- OSC History
- Types of Discrimination
- Form I-9 Process and Special Issues
- Hot topics: E-Verify/No-Match Issues
- OSC Investigations and Possible Outcomes
- OSC and Civil Rights Division Resources







#### **Historical Overview**

#### Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 (IRCA):

- Imposed employer sanctions for knowingly hiring undocumented workers
- Created Form I-9 (Employment Eligibility Verification Process)
- Created OSC to enforce the anti-discrimination provision

# 1990 U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) Report found:

- 19% of employers (891,000), BEGAN discriminatory practices
- Asians and Hispanics were most harmed



# Prohibited Conduct Under the INA's Anti-Discrimination Provision

#### 8 U.S.C. 1324b

- Citizenship/Immigration status discrimination
- National origin discrimination
- Document abuse
- Retaliation or Intimidation



### Citizenship Status Discrimination



### Citizenship Status Discrimination

- Treating employees differently based on citizenship status
  - unless in rare situations when it is <u>required</u> by the government
- Hiring/firing workers, or in recruitment or referral of workers for a fee
- Employers with more than 3 workers covered



# Who is Protected from Citizenship Status Discrimination?

#### **Protected:**

- U.S. citizens and nationals
- Recent lawful permanent residents
- Asylees
- Refugees

# Better to check with OSC than to turn someone away!



# Citizenship Status Discrimination Examples:

- "U.S. citizen only" hiring policy
- Preferring H-1B Visa holders
- Preferring undocumented workers



### **National Origin Discrimination**



#### **National Origin Discrimination**

- Treating employees differently based on:
  - Country of origin/ancestry
  - Accent
  - Appearing to be from a certain country
- Hiring/firing workers, or in recruitment or referral of workers for a fee
- Employers with 4 14 employees\*

\* The EEOC covers employers with 15 or more employees



# Who is Protected from National Origin Discrimination?

#### **Protected:**

All work authorized individuals

#### Not Protected:

 Undocumented individuals







### National Origin Discrimination Examples:

- Only hiring "native English speakers"
- Preferring people from a particular country
- Not hiring someone because s/he has a foreign accent



## **Document Abuse**



#### **Document Abuse**

- Employers may not, for the purpose of verifying a worker's employment eligibility (i.e. Form I-9/E-Verify):
  - request more or different documents
  - reject reasonably genuine-looking documents,
  - specify certain documents

based on citizenship status or national origin

Employers with more than 3 workers covered



# Who is Protected from Document Abuse?

#### **Protected:**

 All work authorized individuals

#### Not Protected:

 Undocumented individuals



Employer Hotline: 1-800-255-8155 Worker Hotline: 1-800-255-7688



# Document Abuse Examples:

- Requiring only non-U.S. citizens to provide a List A document, such as a Green Card
- Requiring some U.S. citizens to provide certificates of naturalization
- Requiring only Canadians to provide a driver's license



#### Retaliation or Intimidation

- Protection for people who:
  - file a charge with OSC
  - cooperate with an OSC investigation
  - contest action that may constitute unfair documentary practices
  - assert rights under the INA's anti-discrimination provision

...from intimidation, threats, coercion, and retaliation

Covers employers with more than 3 workers



### Retaliation or Intimidation Examples:

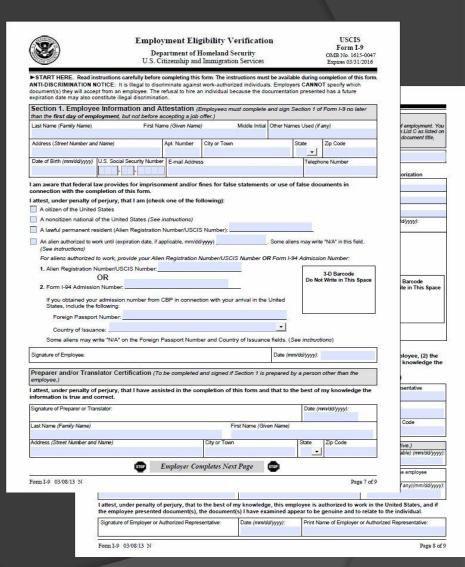
- An employer terminates a worker for having called OSC's hotline
- An employer changes a worker's schedule because the worker voiced concerns about possible citizenship status discrimination



#### **Document Abuse and the Form I-9**

Section 1 must be completed no later than the time of hire, which is the actual beginning of employment

Section 2 must be completed within 3 full business days of the first day of work



**Employer Hotline: 1-800-255-8155** 

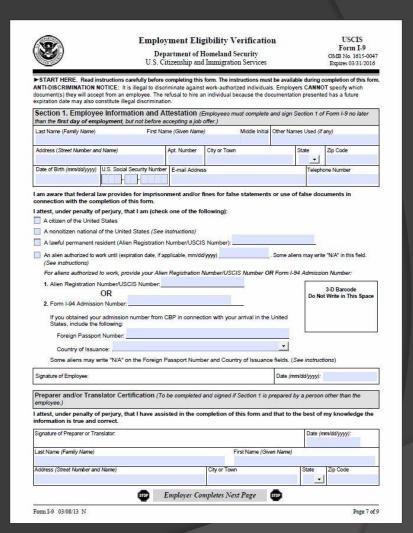
Worker Hotline: 1-800-255-7688



#### Form I-9: Section 1

# **Employee Information**

ALL employees
 must complete,
 sign, & date
 Section 1 at the
 time employment
 begins.



Employer Hotline: 1-800-255-8155 Worker Hotline: 1-800-255-7688



#### Form I-9: Section 1 (cont.)

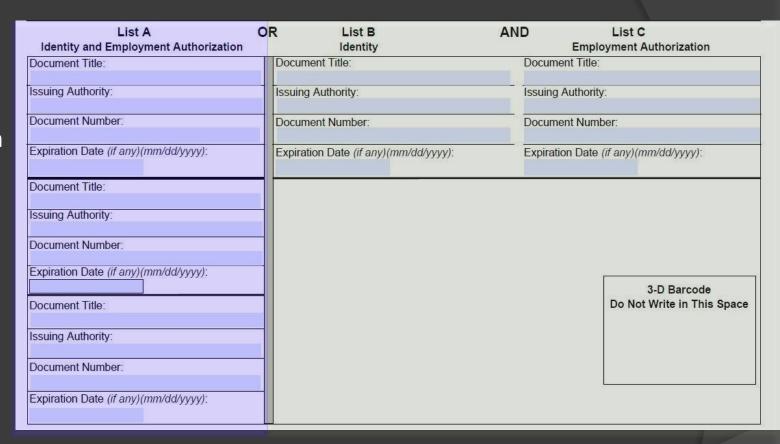
An alien authorized to work until (expiration date, if applicable, mm/dd/yyyy)  (See instructions)	Some aliens may write "N/A" in this field.
For aliens authorized to work, provide your Alien Registration Number/USCIS Number OR	Form I-94 Admission Number:
1. Alien Registration Number/USCIS Number:  OR  2. Form I-94 Admission Number:  If you obtained your admission number from CBP in connection with your arrival in the UStates, include the following:	3-D Barcode Do Not Write in This Space United
Foreign Passport Number:	
Country of Issuance:	
Some aliens may write "N/A" on the Foreign Passport Number and Country of Issuance	fields. (See instructions)

- Aliens whose employment authorization does not expire, such as refugee and asylees, may write "N/A" on the line asking for an expiration date.
- Aliens authorized to work who do not have an A Number should write in their I-94 admission number and passport information. Write "N/A" on the foreign passport number line and the country of issuance line if no foreign passport.
- An employee is not required to show documents proving the selected status.



### Form I-9: Section 2

Employer
completes
Section 2 within
3 business days
of the first day
of work. (If job
begins Monday,
Section 2 must
be completed
by Thursday)



- List A (Both Identity & Employment Eligibility) OR
- List B (Identity) + List C (Employment Eligibility)

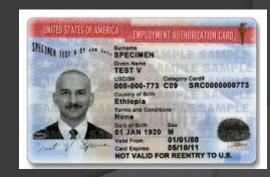
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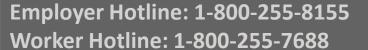


#### Form I-9: Section 3

A. New Name (if applicable) Last Name (Family Name)	First Name (Given Name)	Middle Initial	B. Date of Rehire (if applicable) (mm/dd/yyyy)	
C. If employee's previous grant of employment authorization presented that establishes current employment authorization.			ument from List A or List C the employee	
Document Title:	Document Number:		Expiration Date (if any)(mm/dd/yyyy):	
I attest, under penalty of perjury, that to the best o the employee presented document(s), the docume	A CONTRACTOR OF THE PROPERTY O	pear to be genui	ne and to relate to the individual.	
	Date (mm/dd/yyyy):	Daint Manne of	Print Name of Employer or Authorized Representative:	

- U.S citizens, green cards and List B documents should not be reverified!
- Employers must accept a List A or List C document







### Form I-9: Special Issues

- There are exceptions to the general rule that documents cannot be expired:
  - Temporary Protected Status ("TPS")
- Older versions of documents are still valid, such as:
  - Former versions of Social Security cards
  - INS-issued Resident Alien cards with no expiration date



### I-94 Arrival-Departure Records

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is now automating I-94s. An employee may show:



OR



I-94 Card

Print-Out from CBP's Website

If the pre-printed admission # on an I-94 card is crossed out with a different # handwritten below, use the handwritten # for Section 2.

Employer Hotline: 1-800-255-8155 Worker Hotline: 1-800-255-7688



### Refugee/Asylee Issues

#### Refugees and Asylees:

- Are indefinitely work authorized, just like LPRs and U.S. citizens
- Are allowed to work even if they have not yet received their Social Security numbers or cards
- May present List B and List C documents for the Form I-9
- Should be run through E-Verify only <u>after</u> they receive their Social Security numbers



# Temporary Protected Status (TPS) Issues

- Government cannot issue new EADs fast enough
- Federal Register formally announces the extension
- Extension is automatic
  - The worker must use the expired EAD
- Examples: Haiti, Honduras, El Salvador, Syria
- Call OSC's hotline if you have questions



### **E-Verify Program**

- Electronic program that verifies employment eligibility using government databases
- With some exceptions, used for new hires only
- Tentative non-confirmation (TNC) does not necessarily mean the worker is undocumented
- Employers <u>cannot</u> take action against a worker while the worker is resolving a TNC
- Call OSC if you believe an employer is discriminating in use of E-Verify



#### **No-Match Issues**

- Mismatch between Social Security number and name
- Comes from a variety of sources, such as:
  - Social Security Administration
  - Health insurance providers
- Employers should give workers a reasonable amount of time to resolve the issue

A no-match alone is <u>not</u> sufficient basis to take adverse action against a worker



# What To Do If You Need Immediate Assistance?

- OSC <u>hotline intervention</u> system intervenes on a worker's behalf
- Calls can be anonymous and in any language
- Open 9am-5pm, Monday-Friday ET

Worker Hotline: 1-800-255-7688



# Ways in Which OSC Investigates Employers

OSC can investigate employers in one of two ways:

- Charge-Based
  - OSC investigates charges of discrimination filed by injured parties or their representatives
- OSC-Initiated
  - OSC can open independent investigations



### How to File a Charge with OSC

- Charges must be filed within 180 days of discrimination
- Advocates can file the charge on behalf of the victim
- Charges may be filed in any language
- Charge Forms available from OSC Website in English, Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Arabic, Haitian Creole, Korean, Russian, and Tagalog.



### **OSC Investigation**

Charging Party files a charge with OSC (OSC can also open an independent investigation)



(regardless of outcome, charging party gets "right to sue letter" at day 120)

OSC dismisses charge (no jurisdiction or no discrimination)

OSC finds discrimination and resolves the matter

OSC finds
discrimination and
files a complaint in
court (OCAHO)

Employer Hotline: 1-800-255-8155 Worker Hotline: 1-800-255-7688



#### Remedies

- Hire or rehire
- Back pay
- Injunctive Relief
  - Training
  - Monitoring
- Civil penalties







### **Creating Partnerships**

• What is happening in your community?

How can we work together?



#### **OSC** Resources

- Call OSC's Worker Hotline 1-800-255-7688 to speak with an OSC representative (calls can be anonymous)
- Sign up for a free webinar
- Contact OSC for printed materials
- Educational materials are also available on OSC's website: <u>www.justice.gov/crt/about/osc</u>
- Write us at <u>osccrt@usdoj.gov</u>



# Rights Protected by other Offices in the Civil Rights Division

#### **Federal Coordination & Compliance Section**

 Enforces laws that prohibit discrimination because of national origin, race or color by recipients of federal funds

#### **Criminal Section**

- Prosecutes those who are accused of using force or violence to interfere with a person's federally protected rights because of that person's national origin
- These rights include areas such as housing, employment, education, or use of public facilities

#### **Disability Rights Section**

 Investigates discrimination complaints based on disability by enforcing the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

#### **Educational Opportunities Section**

 Enforces laws in elementary and secondary schools as well as public colleges and universities and also addresses discrimination in all aspects of education

Employer Hotline: 1-800-255-8155 Worker Hotline: 1-800-255-7688



# Rights Protected by other Offices in the Civil Rights Division

#### **Employment Section**

Investigates complaints of a pattern or practice of illegal employment discrimination by a state or local government

#### **Housing and Civil Enforcement Section**

- Investigates complaints of a pattern or practice of discrimination in access to or equal enjoyment of a public accommodation
- Discrimination complaints for loans with purposes other than housing (such as a car loan)

#### **Special Litigation Section**

- Enforces the constitutional rights of institutionalized persons
- Investigates complaints that a police department has a pattern or practice of discriminating on the basis of national origin

#### **Voting Section**

Investigates discrimination complaints in the voting process or denying assistance to a voter when
casting a ballot by enforcing provisions of the Voting Rights Act, the Voting Accessibility for the Elderly
and Handicapped Act, the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, the National Voter
Registration Act and the Help America Vote Act

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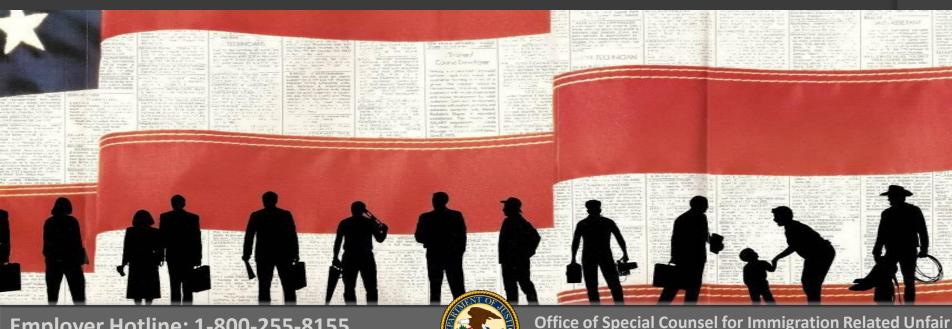


### Please feel free to contact me!

#### **THANK YOU!**

Office of Special Counsel for Immigration Related **Unfair Employment Practices** 

## IF YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO WORK, DON'T LET ANYONE TAKE IT AWAY.



Employment Practices: www.justice.gov/crt/about/osc

**Employer Hotline: 1-800-255-8155** 

Worker Hotline: 1-800-255-7688